



This is Nettie. She's wearing her very best clothes. Nettie's mother has spent hours and hours combing her hair, and the lady next door has given her a beautiful golden crown to wear.

But why is she dressed up so finely?

Nettie's not the only one. She's surrounded by a group of guardsmen. They're dressed just as nicely as Nettie. And what a fuss they're making! They keep asking one another, "How does my collar look?", "What about my hair?" and "Is my hat on straight?"

There's so much hustle and bustle that it's hard to spot Nettie in the crowd.

But why are they all so excited?



That's because it's a very big day for the guards. Rembrandt, the best and most famous artist in the land, is going to paint them.



Rembrandt laughs. "You want to know how I'm going to get all of these people into one painting?" he says. "Well, I'm going to make it a very big painting. And I'll put some people at the front and others at the back. Then I won't have to paint everyone from head to toe."

"But who are you going to put at the front?" asks Nettie.

"And who's going at the back?"

"Hmm," says Rembrandt. "I don't know yet."





